

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 045217

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OAS, PFOR

SUBJECT: POSTPONEMENT OF OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

REFERENCE: PORT OF SPAIN 465

1. IN DISCUSSING POSTPONEMENT OF OASGA, PLEASE INFORM THE GOTT THAT WE HAVE MADE EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT TO ACCOMMODATE THE INTERESTS OF ALL MEMBERS IN FINDING A SUITABLE DATE FOR THE OASGA. THE PROBLEM IS THAT NO DATE IS IDEAL. WE ORIGINALLY SUGGESTED APRIL 30. WE HAVE CONSULTED WITH THE OAS FOREIGN MINISTERS, AND SO FAR T&T SEEMS TO BE THE ONLY GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD BE SERIOUSLY INCONVENIENCED BY THE NEW MAY 8 DATE. WE CONSIDERED BOTH EARLIER AND LATER DATES, BUT BECAUSE OF CONFLICTS OF TIMING FOR OTHER GOVERNMENTS, MAY 8 BECAME ALMOST THE ONLY CHOICE.

2. WHILE WE RECOGNIZE AND SINCERELY REGRET THE INCONVENIENCE TO T&T AS HOST OF THE ECLA MEETING, WE DOUBT THAT THE OVERLAP BETWEEN THE TWO MEETINGS WILL CAUSE SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR OTHERS. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT DELEGATION PERSONNEL WOULD BE THE SAME IN MOST CASES, IN VIEW OF THE

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DIFFERENT NATURE OF THE MEETINGS. OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

MEETINGS ARE PREDOMINANTLY ATTENDED BY FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS, WHILE PAST BIENNIAL ECLA MEETINGS HAVE BEEN ATTENDED BY ECONOMIC, FINANCE, AND PLANNING OFFICE OFFICIALS OVERLAP WOULD BE MORE LIKELY TO OCCUR WITH REGULAR ANNUAL MEETING OF IA-ECOSOC, NOW SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 10-15.

3. WE ARE FORMALLY PROPOSING MAY 8 TODAY AND HOPE GOTT WILL UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS OUR BEST EFFORT TO RECONCILE PROBLEMS OF ALL OAS GOVERNMENTS ON THE QUESTION OF TIMING. OF COURSE THE FINAL DECISION WILL BE UP TO THE PERMANENT COUNCIL. KISSINGER

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